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IN THE IMAGE OF THOREAU An Appreciation
by Leonard F. Kleinfeld

[Editor's note: This is a somewhat condensed version of the 1972 Presidential address.]

"He who sees things grow from the beginning will have the best view of them." Aristotle

In the first chapter of WALDEN, Thoreau writes: "However, I, on my side require of every writer, first or last, a simple and sincere account of his own life, and not merely what he has heard of other men's lives."

So be it!

I first heard of Henry David Thoreau when I attended a private school in New York City. Before an Easter holiday, our instructor charged the class to prepare and present a review of a book by Dickens, Thackeray or Thoreau. I was familiar with Dickens and Thackeray and was under the impression that since they were both English, that Thoreau might be French.

At the local branch of the public library, I obtained a copy of CAPE COD. I read of shipwrecks, stage coach views, the Wellfleet oysterman and the Highland Light. Also the plants of Cape Cod and the beaches and the surging waves in angry moods and in gentle soothing patterns. He also mentioned the hardships of the fishermen and their families.

To me, a native of the lower east side of New York, the book opened undreamed of vistas. The Cape was a far cry from the rough and dirty cobble-stoned streets with people rushing to factories and sweatshops, working from sixty to eighty hours a week for a mere pittance.

I was determined to know more about the man who could describe in such succinct tones the wonders that existed in what seemed to me a dream world. There have been many books written about Cape Cod, but Thoreau's CAPE COD remains the classic. In my further search to learn more about Thoreau, I read the Thoreau biography by Henry S. Salt. It ranks foremost in its appreciation of Thoreau's high thinking and simple living. My interest increased and I soon had a copy of WALDEN. I then read and re-read all of Thoreau's books and essays. They are like veins of pure gold or a pearl fished out of the sea. The book, WALDEN, became my bedside bible. It was in a large measure responsible for a change in my attitude toward earning a living. I learned that understanding comes through education and not through fear and that one of man's noblest assets is his integrity. That may account for the fact that I have never lived a life of quiet desperation.

In 1919, I finally managed to visit Walden Pond.

The Thoreau Society, Inc. is an informal gathering of students and followers of Henry David Thoreau. Frederic T. McGill, Jr., Short Hills, N.J., President; Mrs. Charles MacPherson, Acton, Mass., Vice-President; and Walter Harding, State Univ., Geneseo, N.Y., 14454, Secretary-Treasurer. Annual membership \$2.00; life membership, \$50.00. Address communications to the secretary.

I have been there many times since but the first impression lingers on. It was an early morning and I was entranced at the serenity of the turquoise-green quivering surface of the pond. Nature's early morning oratorio was enhanced by a variety of bird calls and a whispering wind that re-echoed Nature's sounds in every direction. I reverently strolled around the pond on a trail that might have been blazed by Indians on hallowed ground that held so much enchantment for Thoreau. As the morning mist ascended heavenward, I envisioned the vapor gradually taking the shape of an ethereal apparition in the design of a small child that had the resemblance of the infant, David Henry Thoreau. As I took leave of Nature's cathedral, I lingered at the cairn site. We are informed that the cairn was started during a Sunday school picnic in June 1872, on a spot suggested by Amos Bronson Alcott.

My business takes me to many places in many lands where it has been my pleasure to meet people in many occupations. In observing their behavior and actions, I often wonder why they should be in such desperate haste to succeed and in such desperate enterprises. If I've not kept pace with some of my contemporaries, perhaps it is because I have heard a different drummer and stepped to the music that I have heard.

Because of my deep faith in Thoreau it became incumbent upon me to broadcast what I knew about him. Not like a religious proselyte but in the sense of a Johnny Appleseed, who, in his saunterings through strange places spreads the word that we are the heirs of history. That the essence of the struggle for liberty is the destruction of privilege, and giving the life and citizenship of each individual the highest possible value.

I recall a meeting in a Parisian cafe where the "Cercle des Amis D' Henri David Thoreau", was organized. There was a great deal of enthusiasm from Mr. & Mrs. Louis Simon. He is the President of the French Thoreau Fellowship. Micheline Flak the Secretary has written many articles on Thoreau. It was my pleasure to address a large group at the Benjamin Franklin Bibliotech on the opinions of Thoreau by many of his contemporaries.

In England, the first meeting was held at a theosophists retreat in the delightful town of Camberly, where John Pontin and I spent several delightful and tranquil days. We then had a supper meeting in London where many members including Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Thoreau and John DuParcq attended. John Pontin, the President, is currently engaged with Prof. George Hendrick in writing a biography of Henry S. Salt. Eric Williams, the Secretary of the group has made several Thoreau contributions to British libertarian publications.

Prof. Mayayoshi Higashiyama has been the President of the Japanese Thoreau Fellowship since its inception. He wrote the foreword to the Japanese limited edition of "Resistance to Civil Government", that was printed in English in Japan. A debt of gratitude is also due to Prof. Koh Kasegawa and Dr. George Saito in spreading translations of Thoreau into the Japanese language.

Vladimir Munoz and I enjoyed the sidewalk cafe meetings that we had in Montevideo. In the manner of Thoreau, Munoz has built a home near Montevideo but on a larger scale, that houses his wife and two children. One of the rooms, dedicated to Thoreau harbors the largest Thoreau collection in South America. As Secretary of the Friends of Henry David Thoreau in South and Central America, Munoz has kept in touch with Thoreau scholars in many countries.

Dr. Justo Garate of Mendoza, Argentina and Dr. Enrique Espinoza of Santiago, Chile, despite heavy teaching schedules at universities always find time and enjoyment in having their Thoreau articles printed.

I felt like a member of the clan when we held a meeting at the Villa Dorvic, the home of Vivian and Dorothy Thoreau in St. Saviour's Parish on the island of Jersey in the Channel Islands. Several members of the family and friends gathered to organize a chapter of the Thoreau Fellowship. It was Vivian Thoreau who acted as my guide in visiting many historic sites on Jersey.

Aubyn Thoreau of Timaru, New Zealand, is the grandson of Philip Edward Thoreau who settled on New Zealand in 1878 and according to the latest news there are many Thoreau families in New Zealand. Robert Stowell, formerly on the faculty of the University of Vermont, is now teaching at the University of Canterbury at Christchurch in New Zealand. He has edited two editions of the Thoreau Gazetteer.

I have been in contact with other Thoreau devotees and scholars in Norway, Canada, Spain, India, Israel, the Netherlands and Hungary.

We are face to face with new conceptions of the relation of property to human welfare. We must recognize that profits are secondary to human rights and human welfare. I am inclined to think that Thoreau would have concluded that executive power should act as the steward to administer the public welfare and that the judiciary should interest itself primarily in human welfare rather than in property and that Congress should represent all the people rather than one class or section of the people.

I do not prefer one religion or philosophy to another. Like Thoreau, I have no sympathy with bigotry or ignorance which makes transient and partial distinctions between one man's faith or form of faith and another's, such as Christian and heathen. I pray to be delivered from narrowness, partiality, exaggeration, bigotry. To the philosopher all sects, all nations, are alike. I like Buddha, the Great Spirit, Jehovah, Mohammed,--as well as God.

Every bit of human progress has happened for a single, simple reason; the elevation of the status of the individual. Each time civilization has become a little better, it has been because people have cared more about other people and have respected them as individuals.

I have learned to judge people's character by the depth of their humility.

On January 27th, 1841, at the Concord Lyceum, John and Henry Thoreau debated the affirmative against Bronson Alcott on the subject, "Is It Ever Proper To Offer Forcible Resistance." On the very next day;

Jan. 28th, 1841, Thoreau noted in his day book: "Resistance is a very wholesome and delicious morsel at times."

In 1948, at the request of Prof. H. W. L. Dana, who was too radical for Harvard but not radical enough for Columbia, urged me to compile a Thoreau chronology. It was printed in 1950 and can be found in many college reference libraries and private collections.

Several years later, I started to compile a Thoreau genealogy which necessitated making trips to the island of Jersey, to check church records. I shall be forever grateful to Vivian Thoreau who joined me in visits to the parishes of St. Helier and St. Mary's. In the parish cemetery at St. Helier's we came upon the tombstone of Phillipe Thoreau, the great grandfather of Henry Thoreau. Before the genealogy was completed I had been in contact with Thoreau families and kinsfolk in Canada, New Zealand, England, Belgium and the United States.

During my long association with the Thoreau groups, I have learned the meaning of friendship. I have been fortunate in having acquired companions and friends in the Thoreau Society, the Thoreau Lyceum and the Thoreau Fellowship, all based on goodness, beauty and truth, that could very well be the true significance of what Thoreau had in mind when he spoke of a hound, a bay horse and a turtle-dove.

In response to a letter from Walter Harding to organize a Thoreau group, a meeting was held at Concord July 12th, 1941. Mr. Allen French welcomed the guests, who were then addressed by Dr. Raymond Adams, Prof. Odell Shepard, Walter Harding, the Rev. Roland B. Sawyer and Judge B. M. Thompson. The highlight of the meeting was a selection of a committee to plan the formation of a national Thoreau Society. Shortly thereafter, the first issue of the Thoreau Society Bulletin appeared. Thoreau Society booklets were later introduced thus beginning a tradition that brought into print a number of essays, poems and photographs of Thoreauviana. The bulletin and the booklets continue to be mailed to the members. Dues at that time were \$1.00 per annum and later increased to \$2.00: Life membership was increased from \$25.00 to \$50.00.

Dr. Raymond Adams became the first president and the first Thoreau booklet in an edition of 110 copies was published on May 6th 1942 commemorating the 80th anniversary of Thoreau's death.

On June 20th 1944, Walter Harding, the secretary-treasurer, reported that we had 113 active members and a balance of \$193.83.

In 1945, the far famed Cooper Union, devoted an entire evening to commemorate the centenary of Thoreau's Walden experiment with a discussion of the pertinence of his philosophy. An enthusiastic assembly was addressed by Dr. Raymond Adams, Roger Baldwin, Henry Seidel Canby and Roger Paine.

October 28th, 1945, was a momentous day for Roland Wells Robbins who uncovered the foundation of the exact site of Thoreau's Walden house. This prompted the commissioners of Middlesex County to set aside a fund of one thousand dollars to suitably mark this historic site.

Near the completion of his chores, Robbins and his companion, Wallace Conant, were chatting about the importance of the excavation, when, through a clearing near a clump of trees a soldier appeared. He inquired about the nature of the digging and when he was asked his name, he replied: "I am Henry David Thoreau, Jr."

Mr. Conant then said that if he, the soldier, was Henry David Thoreau, then he, Wallace Conant, was Ralph Waldo Emerson. Both Robbins and Conant were surprised when they read the soldier's identification tag: Henry David Thoreau, Jr. It seems that the soldier's great grandfather had migrated to Canada from Jersey and later settled in the United States. The soldier and his father were both members of the Thoreau Society.

Subsequently, Robbins was to build two replicas of Thoreau's Walden house. One in the rear of his own property in Lincoln: the other on the grounds of the Thoreau Lyceum. Each cost over \$3,000 to erect: Whereas, Thoreau mentions that his Walden house cost but \$28.12½ cents.

Through the efforts of Mary P. Sherwood and with the assistance and cooperation of Mr. & Mrs. Robert T. Moore, the Thoreau Foundation dedicated the Thoreau Lyceum on Belknap Street, adjacent to the land of the Texas house. The Thoreau Lyceum is an active and bustling institution that houses a lecture hall, small museum and a library as well as a book and gift shop with items at modest prices. All revenue goes toward the maintenance of the Lyceum.

In 1957, just before the annual meeting, spurred by the despoilment of the Walden woodland by bulldozer and chain saw, the Thoreau Society members went into action. A conference with the Board of Selectmen at the pond took place and stimulated by the action at the annual meeting, a Save Walden committee was appointed. A deluge of publicity followed with news stories, editorials and letters appearing in newspapers and magazines. Radio and T. V. networks broadcast the story while letters, telegrams and telephone calls poured into the Save Walden Committee.

Backed by legal counsel, the committee took the firm stand that under the donor's deeds, the Walden land was given "to preserve the Walden of Emerson and Thoreau; its shores and woodlands," and that the permissive use for bathing, fishing and boating should be subordinated to the primary purpose of the gift. Encouragement and funds came in from interested parties and thanks to Mr. Frederick C. Fisher, Jr., the county commissioners were asked to restore the property to its former appearance and the minute men and women of Concord had won another battle.

For many years, Theodore Bailey, Walter Harding, Edwin Way Teale and many others waged a campaign to have Thoreau admitted into the Hall of Fame and to have the United States Post Office issue a commemorative stamp in honor of Thoreau. It was not surprising, therefore, that the 1961 meeting passed resolutions to have both of these projects realized.

The Society's commemorative exercises celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the death of Thoreau was held in New York City over the weekend of May 5th - 6th, 1962. The first meeting was held on the morning of May 5th in the Morgan Library, with papers being read by Carl F. Hovde, Joseph Moldenhauer and Walter Harding. Lunch that day was served in the Community Church and the menu included, "boeuf a la mode superieure de woodchuck, Sudbury meadow rice, Walden beans, Heywood's meadow cranberry sauce, Hosmer corn bread, apple pie dowdy, (from Mrs. Alcott's recipe) Deacon Woods cider, water from Brister's spring, Emersonian popped corn and nuts." After lunch, Raymond Adams spoke on, "The Day Thoreau Didn't Die."

At the afternoon session in the Morgan Library, J. Lyndon Shanley read a paper, "Thoreau: Years of Disappointment and Decay," and Reginald L. Cook spoke

on, "A Parable of Parablists." Dugald Semple, who lived a Thoreau type of existence in Scotland spoke on, "Thoreau In The World Today."

Coincident with the meeting the Morgan Library exhibited many Thoreau items including manuscripts, Thoreau pencils made by John Thoreau and sons, and the notebooks from which the journals were printed.

On Sunday morning, May 6th, the members were guests of the Community Church where the Rev. Donald S. Harrington took as his Sunday text: "Living Is So Dear."

Later that same afternoon, at the library of New York University on University Heights, the Hall of Fame for great Americans conducted its dedication exercises by admitting Henry David Thoreau. A presentation of the sculptured Malvina Hoffman Thoreau bust was unveiled by Mrs. Herbert Hosmer and Mrs. Caleb Wheeler, both of Concord. Tributes were delivered by Raymond Adams, Theodore Bailey, Howard Mumford Jones, Lewis Leary and Paul Oehser. After an address by His Excellency, Hon. Braj Kumar Nehru, Ambassador from India to the United States, the members and guests adjourned to a reception room that was decorated with wild flowers gathered in Concord by Mrs. Edmund Fenn and Mrs. Charles MacPherson. A beautifully printed program of the meetings was mailed to all members.

While these ceremonies were taking place in New York, the citizens of Concord, with bells tolling in the steeple of the First Parish Church, solemnly marched to Poets Corner in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, the final resting place of Thoreau.

History records that in the Fall of 1963, Mrs. John F. Kennedy announced that the citizens might enhance the significance of the White House by creating a library there that would house the most famous works of American authors. From a list of 1,780 books that were selected to start the library, a set of the Thoreau journals and five other books pertaining to Thoreau were contributed through the efforts of members for the Thoreau section.

Mrs. Herbert Hosmer, became the first woman president of the Society and served from 1965-1966, and in 1966-1967, George Russell Ready of Canada was our first president who was not a resident of the United States. It was during his term that the United States Post Office issued the Thoreau commemorative stamp with first day sales at Concord and a suitable ceremony at the annual meeting.

In 1969, the Society voted to donate the sum of five hundred dollars to the National Farm Workers Association in honor of their leader, Cesar Chavez, toward working for human rights in the tradition of Henry David Thoreau. At the same meeting we bestowed our first foreign scholarship award. We set aside the sum of one thousand dollars to assist the Uruguayan Thoreau scholar, Vladimir Munoz to attend the 1970 meeting. Munoz arrived in 1970 and was presented to the members at the regular meeting. He was impressed by the memorabilia in the Thoreau Archives and in the Thoreau Lyceum, as well as the replica of the Thoreau Walden house where he stayed in Lincoln as the guest of Mrs. & Mr. Roland Robbins.

The Society inherited a legacy from the estate of Ira Hoover in the amount of \$6,562.36 which was set aside and earmarked as the Ira Hoover Fund.

Homage and tributes have been paid to Thoreau by universities, museums and literary societies; many of whom have arranged seminars, exhibits and special events. Prominent amongst these have been Cooper Union, The Museum of Natural History in New York, the Grolier Club, the Morgan Library, the University

of Utah, Nassau Community College and the most recent one by the University of Pittsburgh, where, in addition to a special Thoreau week, prominent Thoreauvians addressed the faculty and students. The exhibit numbering hundreds of items was displayed on several floors of the Hillman Library for many months.

The highlight of the celebration was the planting of a stately white dogwood tree on the campus in front of the Heinz Chapel and will be known to future generations as the Thoreau Friendship Tree.

In 1966, the Society contributed \$1,000 for the purchase of two acres of land in the Easterbrook woods for the Concord Field Station of the Museum of Comparative Zoology of Harvard University as a memorial to Henry David Thoreau. The land will be preserved, "forever wild," for ecological study and the enjoyment of future generations. An equal amount of \$1,000 was also granted in 1971 to the Concord Land Conservation Trust toward the completion of the purchase of the Punkatasset tract.

We are all mindful and appreciative of the fact that over the years, Mrs. Ruth Wheeler, a former vice-president and author of "Concord: Climate for Freedom", has been our enthusiastic and dedicated archivist. She has performed yeoman service.

Mention is also due Mrs. Mary Fenn in keeping us abreast of the activities of the Walking Society: a feature in many issues of the Thoreau Bulletins, in which she describes the jaunts taken by the walkers to many parts of the Thoreau country.

We are likewise grateful to Sam Wellman for donating the plaques that mark the sites of the houses where Thoreau was born and died: the jail house and the Texas house. We are also indebted to the Hosmer family, Anton Kovar and Dr. Fred. S. Piper for their generous and important contributions to the Thoreau Archives.

Much may be said of the tremendous amount of time, energy and talent given by Robert Needham, who in various capacities has contributed much to the tradition of the Society and while many of us have been engaged in some form of activity or another, none has contributed more to our prestige than our former president; one of our founding fathers and steadfast secretary-treasurer, Walter Harding. He has performed admirably and in some instances under very tiring circumstances. As editor of the Bulletin he has kept us abreast of the bibliographical material available to the Thoreau scholar and collector. He has searched for and printed new and unpublished material about Thoreau. His summer seminars on Thoreau have attracted many young people.

Thoreau reported that at the end of four years, the sales of A WEEK ON THE CONCORD AND MERRIMACK RIVERS, amounted to 209 copies; the balance of an edition of 1000 copies having found their way to his attic. It is interesting to note that the publishers of WALDEN reported that the first year's sales of WALDEN amounted to 739 copies. Since then WALDEN has gone into more editions than any other book published in the United States prior to the Civil War and as for Thoreau, it has been said that he is mentioned more often in the communications media than any other American with the exception of Abraham Lincoln.

Let us teach more: learn more: read more: talk more and live more, in the tradition of Thoreau and thus recognize more of the goodness, beauty and truth--for the glory of the individual...as Thoreau did.

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- THE MAINE WOODS. Edited by Joseph Moldenhauer. Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1972. 486pp. \$12.50. the second volume in the new NEH-CEAA-sponsored edition of Thoreau. Although most of Thoreau's works suffered at the hands of early (and late) editors and publishers, MAINE WOODS ran into more troubles than most from the first edition's unbelievably misplacing by ten pages 2 1/2 pages of the text to the monstrosities of the edition of 1950 wherein Dudley Lunt tried to rewrite the entire book. Now at last, thanks to the scholarly work of Prof. Moldenhauer, we have a text as close to Thoreau's wishes as we will probably ever be able to get. While some of the tables and charts in the back of the book will be of interest only to the most highly specialized scholars, the textual introduction and notes are a revelation as to what has happened to the text.
- The Same. Review. TJQ. 4 (July, 1972), 32.
- THOREAU'S WORLD. Review. NEQ., 45 (March, 1972), 144-6.
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- Timpe, Eugene F. THOREAU ABROAD. Review: NEQ, 45,

(March, 1972), 155-158.

Walker, Eugene H. "The History Back of the Name
Walden," CONCORD SAUNTERER, Supplement 2 (June,
1972).

White, Hilda. "Henry David Thoreau" in TRUTH IS MY
COUNTRY. Garden City: Doubleday, 1971, pp. 63-98.

A well-written account of Thoreau for teen-agers.

Williams, Paul. "Warping up the Tongue River," TJQ,
4 (April, 1972), 27. Poem.

Zimmer, Jeanne, "A History of Thoreau's Hut and Hut
Site," ESQ, 18 (1972), 134-140.

THE 1972 ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Thoreau Society was held in the First Parish Meetinghouse in Concord, Mass., on Saturday, July 15, 1972. Coffee was served in the Ladies' Parlor. The meeting was called to order at 10:15 by the president, Leonard Kleinfeld. Greetings were presented from the Town of Concord by Edward K. True, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, and from the Thoreau Lyceum by President Malcolm Ferguson. The minutes of the 1971 meeting were approved as printed in the Summer, 1971 Bulletin. The following report of the treasurer was accepted:

Balance on Hand June 4, 1971		\$4,118.89
Expenditures		
Annual meeting	987.79	
Mailing	624.94	
Printing	491.09	
Misc.	225.55	
Concord Land Con-		
servation Trust	1000.00	
Editing surveys	1000.00	4326.37
Receipts		
Dues	1716.00	
Back issues	127.95	
Life memberships	150.00	
Gifts	1203.00	
Royalties	179.82	
Luncheon tickets	403.00	3779.77
On Hand, June 15, 1972		3572.29.

It was also announced that there is \$7163.61 on hand in the Hoover Memorial Fund.

The chairman of the nominating committee, Roland Robbins, submitted the following slate of officers who were then duly elected: for president, Frederic T. McGill, Jr., Short Hills, N.J.; president-elect, H. H. Uhlig, Cambridge, Mass., vice-president, Mrs. Charles MacPherson, Acton, Mass.; secretary-treasurer, Walter Harding, Geneseo, N.Y., all for terms of one year; Paul Williams, Elmhurst, Ill., member of the executive committee for two years; and Milton C. Paige, Jr. and Dana McLean Greeley, both of Concord, members of the executive committee for three years.

A motion to amend the by-laws to add the words "or vice president" after the words "any past president" in By-Law 3, and thus in effect making all past-vice-presidents of the society automatically members of the executive committee when they are in attendance, was passed unanimously. Robert Needham, who retired as vice-president at this meeting, was given a standing ovation in appreciation of his many services for the society.

A motion to add the following words to the end of By-Law 2: "and in general, to exercise all or any power for which a non-profit corporation

organized under the provisions of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for educational and charitable purposes can be authorized or exercised, but not for any other power. No part of the activities of this corporation shall be for the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise of attempting to influence legislation. Notwithstanding anything set forth above, the corporation is constituted only for those purposes and shall exercise only such powers conferred by State law as those allowed under the applicable sections of Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code, as presently in effect or as the same may be amended" and thus give donors to the society's funds the right to deduct their donations on their income taxes, was tabled with a request that the executive committee investigate the possibility of establishing a separate foundation for the receipt of such donations.

Prof. B. F. Skinner of Harvard University delivered an address entitled "Walden (One) and Walden Two" which we hope to present in a forthcoming bulletin, and Leonard Kleinfeld delivered the presidential address which will be found in condensed form in this current bulletin.

Luncheon was served at 12:45 followed by a brief question and answer period conducted by the secretary. In the afternoon, Mrs. Edmund Fenn conducted a walk to Egg Rock; Mrs. Caleb Wheeler and Mrs. Marcia Moss conducted a tour of the Concord Free Public Library, Robert Needham conducted a tour of Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, and Walter Harding chaired a forum on "The Trouble with Henry," at which Ray Gagnon read a paper entitled, "Thoreau: Some Negative Considerations." At 6 p.m. the Thoreau Lyceum entertained the members of the society at a box supper and exhibitions of the Thoreaus on the Isle of Jersey (by Leonard Kleinfeld) and Thoreau in New Hampshire (by Malcolm Ferguson). The evening program at the Parish House featured a presentation of the Canadian Broadcasting Co. documentary "Henry David Thoreau: The Beat of a Different Drummer," and the presentation of the gavel to the incoming president of the society, Fred McGill.

REPORT OF THE WALKING SOCIETY by Mary Fenn

It would seem a simple matter to make a map of Thoreau Country. One would just jot down a list of the places he mentioned and then superimpose them on a map of Concord. But, like a good many other things, it has proven to be difficult and complex indeed.

My daughter, Mary Gail (generally known to her friends as Fuzzy), ran into all sorts of problems in the two years it took to make the Estabrook map, and is now in her third year in mapping Concord's three rivers. She begins, of course, with a list of places Thoreau mentions, gleaned from the text of the Journals. Then the excerpts must be grouped for cross reference until the pages of our 14 volumes have been reduced to the consistency of soft linen. Then the trouble begins.

First of all, place names in Thoreau's day are not always the same names used today. For example, a good many Concordians know the great boulder in the middle of the Assabet River as Gibraltar. Thoreau called it Dove Rock. When Thoreau mentions a meadow, we think at once of a field. But in his day a meadow was a wet marshy place which in August would dry out enough to cut hay. Then too, Thoreau often had several names for the same place--as the pretty little pond on Baker Farm which he called Clematis Pond, or Nightshade Pond, or Button Bush Pond. As for Clematis

Brook which flows out of the pond, it is impossible to locate it where it empties into Fairhaven Bay because the shoreline is hidden by button bushes, and so it can be found only by land. Then too, Thoreau had his own names for places which appear on no maps.

Concord is much more wooded today than it was one hundred and fifty years ago. When Thoreau spoke of the Yellow Birch Cellar Hole as northwest of Yellow Birch Swamp, we looked in vain in that area. Eventually we did discover it, where today it seems a long distance away, but in Thoreau's day it would be within sight across treeless pasture land.

There are three islands in the Assabet, although one is merely a sandbar at its confluence with the Sudbury. The second island is upstream, and also started out as a sandbar. By Thoreau's day it was covered with bushes and willow trees, and was called, as it is today, Willow Island. The third island is the land between the two rivers on which Egg Rock marks their joining to form the Concord River. This area is an island only in extremely high water. Thoreau refers to all three as "the island" and only the context points to which island he is talking about.

A NEW THOREAU DOCUMENT

Our indefatigable Thoreau Society archivist Ruth Wheeler of Concord has just brought to light one of the most exciting Thoreau documents in many years. For months she has been sorting out and organizing the Town of Concord papers that are on deposit in the Concord Free Public Library--a huge mass of papers that apparently no one has gone through for a century or more and there in the papers for 1841 she found the following:

Mr. Clerk Concord Jan 6th 1841
Sir

I do not wish to be considered a member of the First Parish in this town.

Henry D. Thoreau.

This is of course the document to which Thoreau referred when he said in "Civil Disobedience":

Some years ago, the State met me in behalf of the Church, and commanded me to pay a certain sum toward the support of a clergyman whose preaching my father attended, but never I myself. 'Pay,' it said, 'or be locked up in the jail.' I declined to pay. But, unfortunately, another man saw fit to pay it. I did not see why the schoolmaster should be taxed to support the priest, and not the priest the schoolmaster; for I was not the State's schoolmaster, but I supported myself by voluntary subscription. I did not see why the lyceum should not present its tax-bill,

and have the State to back its demand, as well as the Church. However, at the request of the selectmen, I condescended to make some such statement as this in writing:--'Know all men by these presents, that I, Henry Thoreau, do not wish to be regarded as a member of any incorporated society which I have not joined,' This I gave to the town clerk; and he has it. The State, having thus learned that I did not wish to be regarded as a member of that church, has never made a like demand on me since; though it said that it must adhere to its original presumption that time. If I had known how to name them, I should then have signed off in detail from all the societies which I never signed on to; but I did not know where to find a complete list.

And now for the first time we have the precise date of that incident. Mrs. Wheeler reports that Thoreau was not the only one to "sign off" from the Concord churches that year. There are similar letters from ten others, most of whom were signing off from the Trinitarian (rather than the First Parish Church) because it was just erecting its meeting house and they did not wish to be taxed for its construction.

THALASSA, THALASSA!¹ THOREAU AT NEWPORT?

by Willard H. Bonner

Edward Stephenson accurately describes Thoreau's feeling for the Cape Cod shore as "the point of contact between man and the primal, natural (and, therefore, spiritual) movement and rhythms of the universe."² Or, as Thoreau himself puts it, the beach is the place where one can strive to hear the "pure and unqualified strain of melody." This was so not only at Cape Cod but characteristically so whenever Thoreau used the shore as a symbol. Man not only strives to hear the divine melody; he vibrates to it and becomes the articulate harp "which ever lies on the shore."³ It is therefore clear what he thought the function of a sensitive and thoughtful man should be at the seashore, or at any other place imaginatively conceived of as a "shore."

It is consequently ironical to find one of Thoreau's most poignant poems appearing in a volume aimed at the fashionable, vacationing Newport crowd whom he liked to chastise with acidulous wit. Maiden ladies slope to the shore where they strive energetically to keep cool, and (presumably men) pay more attention to ten-pins, mint juleps, and wine than brine, are familiar quips. Yet in Thalatta: A Book for the Sea-Side (Boston, 1853), an anthology of English and American poems about the sea compiled by the Rev. Samuel Longfellow and the Rev. Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Thoreau's poem "The Fisher's Son" appears, though untitled, having been lifted no doubt from the

e Mr Clerk Concord Jan. 6th 1841

H

I do not wish to be considered a member of the First Parish in this town.

Henry D. Thoreau.

Week. A (Boston?) newspaper notice of the book, pasted in my copy of *Thalatta*, reflects the shimmeringly sentimental purpose of the clergymen-compilers and their publishers, Ticknor, Reed, and Fields. If Thoreau ever saw the book or read the notice, he must have winced as much in ironic discomfort as when his lyceum audiences laughed at the humor in his accounts of Cape Cod folk but missed the point.

The notice goes as follows:

THE SEA-SIDE. It was a happy thought of Mr. Longfellow and Mr. Higginson to collect all the good things that have been said and sung of the sea-side and publish them in a volume. "*Thalatta*" is just the book to put into your pocket when you go to the cool, refreshing watering places, and have so much idle time to saunter away. Sitting in a window fronting the sea; roaming along the magnificent beaches so abundant in New England and elsewhere; lying at full length on the rocks of Nahant or Cohasset--nothing more delightful than "*Thalatta*" can possibly accompany you. Newport, we predict, will be twice as interesting since this little volume is issued, and Nantasket will have a new interest, as studied with this charming book for a guide to the beauties of the sea-side.

Thalatta, however, did not fare very well. Anna Mary Wells reports that it was printed "just in time to be overwhelmed by *Uncle Tom's Cabin*," and that it "did nothing to advance the fortunes of its editors."⁴ It was, furthermore, "profanely called the 'Marine Sam-Book' in distinction from the hymn-book compiled by Mssrs [Samuel] Longfellow and Johnson, and popularly known as the 'Sam-Book'."⁵ The odor of sanctity stretched to the seashore. It was hardly the type of anthology Thoreau would have chosen to appear in.

Thalatta seems kin to the Victorian keepsake volumes, or types like Leigh Hunt's *Readings for Railways*,--not occasional pieces but pieces for occasions. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's *The Seaside and the Fireside* (1849) and George William Curtis's anthology of essays from *Putnam's Magazine*, *Tales and Sketches for the Fire-Side* (1857) seemed designed for similar audiences.

If readers of the *Bulletin* know of other American anthologies designed wholly or in part for seaside reading, I should appreciate knowledge of them.

1. Thoreau always preferred this variant of the word.

2. TSB #118, Winter 1972, 4-5.

3. *Writings* (1906), IV, 71.

4. *Life and Times of Thomas Wentworth Higginson* (Boston, 1963), p. 10.

5. Mary Thatcher Higginson, *Thomas Wentworth Higginson* (Boston, 1914), p. 159.

State U. of N.Y. at Buffalo.

We are indebted to the following for information used in this bulletin: M. Ames, J. Armstrong, H. Adel, G. Boudreau, G. Baker, T. Bailey, W. Bottorff, M. Campbell, J. Donovan, R. Epler, F. Flack, M. Fenn, B. Gronewald, H. Gottschalk, D. Hannan, D. Harrison, G. Hasenauer, R. Hubley, D. Hoch, C. Hoagland, A. Jensen, E. Johnson, D. Kamen-Kaye, A. Kovar, M. Kelly, M. Manning, P. Meigs, D. Murray, R. Needham, R. Quick, R. Schaedle, E. Schofield, A. Seaburg, L. Small, W. Sutton, J. Vickers, and J. Zimmer. Please keep the secretary informed of items he has missed and new items as they appear.

NOTES AND QUERIES

We are grateful to Mr. August B. Black of Morris, Ill., who has donated the cost of printing this bulletin to the society.

We understand that the new edition of artist N. C. Wyeth's letters contain many perceptive comments on Thoreau.

The CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR for May 23, 1972 contains an editorial entitled "Thoreau on Energy."

Shri Dattatraya Canpatrao Deshmukh was recently awarded a Ph.D. from Nagpur University in India for a dissertation on "Thoreau and Indian Thought."

The long missing third copy of the Maxham daguerreotype of Thoreau recently turned up in an upstate New York antique shop, unidentified, was spotted by sharp eyes and sold at a recent Park-Bernet auction in New York City for \$2,000.

The Tricorn Gift Shop in Concord now features coffee mugs with a drawing of the Walden cabin.

Cody Books in Berkeley, Calif. have issued a 1972 calendar of Thoreau quotations and also a poster, entitled "Simply Seeing" of quotations from Thoreau. The Same Day Poster Service (Box 1000 East Station, Yonkers, N.Y.) also issue a Thoreau poster with plants and animals worked into the familiar Maxham daguerreotype.

The Thoreau Lyceum in Concord sells an ecology sticker featuring Thoreau's "What is the use of a house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?" and a denim patch for blue jeans that says, "Beware of enterprises that require new clothes."

The May Memorial Unitarian Society in Syracuse, N.Y., at their May 21, 1972 service featured a modern dance entitled "The Different Drummer" choreographed by Lorraine Walters and Tracy Hinton and followed it by a sermon by John C. Fuller on "Thoreau's Drummer and Ours."

The comic strip "Doonesbury" by Garry Trudeau regularly features references to Walden Pond. The April 22 issue of the comic strip "David Crane" referred to Thoreau. And Ed Dodd's comic strip "Mark Trail" retraced Thoreau's footsteps in the Maine Woods in early February.

The George S. MacManus Co. in Philadelphia recently advertised Bayard Taylor's copy of the first edition of WALDEN for \$325. New England Books in Petersham, Mass. has recently issued a whole catalog devoted to Thoreau books.

Eileen Evans is working on a dissertation entitled "The Senses of Thoreau's Language" at Purdue University.

The WASHINGTON POST for May 11 has a cartoon showing a high school student walking down the corridor with a radio to his ear while a teacher comments, "I think the trouble young Figby is having with his peer group is because he marches to a different transistor." A cartoon in MEDICAL ECONOMICS for March 27 shows a doctor advising his patient, "You need to get out of the city and get some fresh country air. Why don't you go up to your place at Walden Pond and commune with nature?" And a cartoon by Dahl in the July 12 BOSTON GLOBE shows Thoreau walking the Cape Cod beach with a non-resident beach license, a parking permit, a clam license, a fire permit, and a smile button.

A new resort and conference center in Hartland, Mich. is named "Waldenwoods Conference Center."

A Hallmark graduation congratulations card features Thoreau's different drummer quotation.

Did Thoreau write the original "shaggy dog" story? Look at the paragraph beginning "There was the usual long-handled axe" halfway through the "Chesuncook" chapter of MAINE WOODS (P. 127 in the Princeton Edition).